SECRET EMPIRE™

MARVEL

#10

NICK SPENCER, STEVE McNIVEN, ROD REIS, DAVID MARQUEZ, PACO MEDINA

STAND DOWN.

SECRET EMPIRE

A SENTIENT COSMIC CUBE NAMED KOBIK TURNED STEVE ROGERS, A.K.A. CAPTAIN AMERICA, INTO AN AGENT OF HYDRA--AND HE USED HIS MANTLE AS THE MOST TRUSTED HERO IN THE WORLD TO CLAIM THE UNITED STATES FOR HIS NEW CAUSE.

LED BY SAM WILSON, THE UNDERGROUND STRUCK A SERIES OF DECISIVE BLOWS AGAINST HYDRA, AND WAS ON THE VERGE OF VICTORY...UNTIL STEVE ROGERS APPEARED ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WEARING ARMOR POWERED BY THE NEARLY COMPLETE COSMIC CUBE.

IS THIS THE END OF THE HYDRA EMPIRE...OR THE END OF EVERYTHING?

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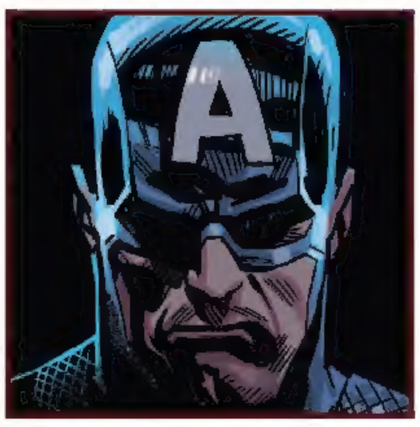
Hydra



Hydra Command Captain America

Madame Hydra

The Underground

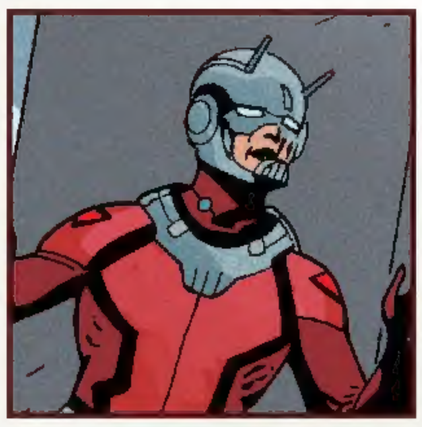
Hawkeye

Captain America

Tony Stark (A.I.)

Spider-Man

Old Man Logan



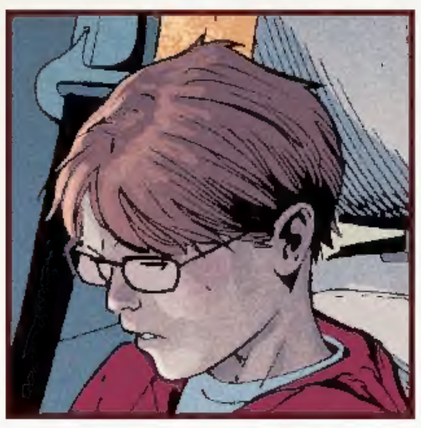
Ant-Man

Winter Soldier

Captain Marvel

Steve Rogers

Kobik



Jason McAllister

Brian McAllister

SO I'M GUESSING BY THE COLOR SCHEME...

YOU MUST BE PRETTY MAD. I MEAN, HE KINDA STOLE YOUR WHOLE SHTICK.

IT'S HIM. IT IS STEVE ROGERS.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

WELL...

...AT LEAST WE'RE ALL FINALLY HERE.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW--I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO. EVEN THROUGH WHATEVER ANGER OR FRUSTRATION I MIGHT BE FEELING--

--I KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU ARE JUST TRYING TO DO WHAT YOU THINK IS ***RIGHT***. BUT YOU'RE ***WRONG***, AND YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE. THE ***LIVES*** THAT HAVE BEEN LOST. AND ALL FOR NOTHING.

YOU SEE, YOU'RE ***TOO LATE***.

THE TIME FOR FIGHTING IS DONE. NOW IT'S TIME TO ***REBUILD***.

HYDRA IS GOING TO USE THE COSMIC CUBE TO RESTORE THE WORLD. TO FORGE IT INTO SOMETHING BETTER. SOMETHING ***STRONGER.***

FREE OF ALL THE WEAKNESS AND CORRUPTION ***YOU*** INFECTED IT WITH. WE CAN ***MAKE*** SOMETHING TRULY GLORIOUS...

...AND WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER. IF YOU'LL JUST--

GONNA STOP YOU RIGHT THERE, BUB--

--I FEEL SAFE SAYIN' YOU AIN'T GONNA GET MANY TAKERS IN THIS CROWD.

LOGAN'S RIGHT. YOU SAY THE TIME FOR FIGHTING IS UP, BUT IT FEELS RIGHT ON TIME TO ME. JUST NEED TO HEAR THE WORDS, I GUESS.

YEAH, I'M ON IT...

THIS IS FOR NAT, YOU SON OF A BITCH.

AVENGERS--

--ASSEMBLE!!!

AND SO WE FOUGHT, UNITED AT LONG LAST.

WE FOUGHT WITH EVERYTHING WE HAD.

AS WE SWARMED AND PILED, AS WE CLAWED AND PUNCHED, WE ALREADY KNEW--

--WE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE.

HIS HEART BEAT WITH THE POWER OF A GOD NOW.

REALITY ITSELF BENT TO HIS FURY.

HE OVERWHELMED US, AND WITH JUST A THOUGHT--

--HE WIPED EVEN THE MEMORY OF US AWAY, LIKE THE SAND AND TIDE.

DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Sunny. High 75-80. Details p.2
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HYDRA ASTRONAUTS RETURN FROM SPACE WITH STRANGE POWERS

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HYDRA ASSEMBLE THE AVENGERS

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HYDRA'S GENE SPIDERS YI POWERE
LY ALTERED SUPER-RESULTS

THE WORLD WAS HIS NOW.

HE REMADE EVERYTHING IN IT IN HIS IMAGE.

IN *HYDRA'S* IMAGE.

HE CHANGED WHO WE WERE, WHAT WE BELIEVED--

--AND HE CHANGED EVERYTHING WE HAD EVER BEEN. OUR HISTORY, OUR NOTIONS OF WHERE WE CAME FROM.

HE GAZED OUT ON IT AND WAS PLEASED.

HE SAW A VISION CLOSE TO PERFECTION.

IT'S DONE.

BUT SOMETHING WAS MISSING.

HOPE STILL *SURVIVED.*

YOU KNOW, A WISE MAN ONCE SAID--

--IT'S NOT OVER 'TIL THE FAT LADY SINGS.
SAM...
CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I HEARD YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THIS.
THE LAST CUBE FRAGMENT. YOU PLANNING TO USE THAT?
NOT EXACTLY.
CAREFUL, SAM...
NOW?
GET READY.
IN THAT MOMENT, FACING DOWN UNSPEAKABLE EVIL, WE REMEMBERED.
REMEMBERED HOW HE DID THE SAME. HOW HE NEVER WAVERED.
WE HONORED HIS LEGACY--

--BY FORGING A NEW PATH.

HAIL HYDRA.

THIS...IS A SURPRISE...

YOU KNOW I GAVE UP THE FIGHT A WHILE BACK. I JUST CAME HERE TO STOP MORE PEOPLE FROM GETTING HURT.

GOOD. THAT'S THE RIGHT CALL, SAM, AND I'M PROUD OF YOU--

--BUT YOU DO HAVE SOMETHING ELSE OF MINE.

NOW POSSESSED OF THE FULL COSMIC CUBE, HE ASCENDED ONCE MORE...

...BECAME SOMETHING BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION.

BUT AS QUICKLY AS THE POWER CAME--

--IT SLIPPED AWAY.

THE CUBE--WHERE DID IT--

UNFF--

W-WHERE *IS IT?* WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE?*

MISSING SOMETHING?

OOOOHH... THAT WAS WORSE THAN THAT TIME WITH THE MICRON--

LANG-- YOU--

WHAT? OH, NO, HEY, DON'T LOOK AT *ME--*

--I WAS JUST HIS RIDE.

MOMENTS EARLIER.

YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THIS, ANT-MAN?

AFTER HOW BADLY I SCREWED UP BACK AT THE MOUNT, I GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT. THAT'S KIND OF MY STANDARD PERSONAL ARC. BIG MISTAKE, BIG GESTURE TO TRY AND FIX IT--

--FIGURE I CAN DO IT ONE LAST TIME.

HERE--IF YOU JUST HOLD ONTO THIS DISC, YOU'LL KEEP SHRINKING...

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO COME?! I CAN STAY WITH YOU--I CAN HOLD ON--

NO! GET CLEAR, SCOTT--

--THIS IS SOMETHING I GOTTA DO ALONE.

DAYS EARLIER.

SO WHAT'S THIS PLAN OF YOURS, THEN, BUCK?

IT'S GONNA NEED TO BE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE CONSIDERING WE CURRENTLY HAVE ONLY ONE COSMIC CUBE FRAGMENT AND STEVE HAS... ALL THE OTHER ONES.

ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE COMES FOR IT.

YEAH--

--WHICH IS WHY WE NEED TO *GIVE* IT TO HIM.

NOW *THAT'S* A TWIST.

LISTEN, THIS ISN'T JUST A CUBE. THIS IS *KOBIK.* A SCARED, CONFUSED KID--

WITH THE POWER OF A GOD. OR ALL THE GODS, PLURAL.

WHICH IS WHY I THINK I CAN REACH HER. THESE FRAGMENTS ARE *PIECES* OF HER. ONCE THEY'RE PUT TOGETHER, SHE CAN BRING HERSELF BACK TO LIFE, NO MATTER WHO IS TRYING TO CONTROL HER. SHE'S *STRONG.*

AND IF SHE'S STILL IN THERE, THEN THAT MEANS SO IS HER MEMORY OF STEVE--THE *REAL* STEVE.

"I JUST NEED TO GET TO THEM..."

KOBIK!

KOBIK! WHERE ARE YOU?!

DAY CARE

KOBIK-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M SORRY... I MESSED UP REAL BAD--I JUST WANTED EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY--I MADE HIM 'CAUSE I THOUGHT HYDRA WAS THE BEST THING.

BUT HE WASN'T--HE WAS *HORRIBLE*...

=SNIFF= AND NOW HE'S TOO STRONG..

RUMBLE

WE CAN *HIDE* HERE! HE WON'T FIND US--

NO, KOBIK-- LISTEN TO ME-- THAT *WON'T WORK.*

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING FASCISTS MY ENTIRE LIFE. AND I PROMISE YOU, THERE IS NOWHERE YOU CAN RUN OR HIDE THAT WILL KEEP YOU SAFE FROM THEM. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO.

YOU *STAND,* AND YOU *FIGHT.*

I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED. I DON'T BLAME YOU.

BUT IF YOU REALLY FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T FACE HIM ALONE--

--LET ME HELP YOU.

DAYCARE

WAIT-- DO YOU HEAR THAT?

STEVE

UH-HUH. IT'S--

BUCKY!

STEVE

BUCKY!!!

WE'RE COMING, BUCK--

STEVE-- GIVE ME YOUR HAND--

BUCKY...

IT'S OKAY--

--I'VE GOT YOU.

WHERE IS IT?! WHERE IS THE CUBE?!

BUCKY-- WHAT DID YOU *DO?*

WELL, STEVE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE CREDIT, BUT THE TRUTH IS--

--SHE DID MOST OF THE WORK.

KOBIK...

NO...NO... THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING. NOT AFTER ALL THIS...

NOOOOO!!!

SHE SWEPT HIS CREATIONS AWAY IN AN INSTANT, THE OLD ORDER RESTORED--

--BUT IT WAS WHO SHE BROUGHT WITH HER THAT WOULD DETERMINE OUR FATE.

THE MAN WHO WOULD STAND FOR ALL OF US. OUR CHAMPION...

...CAPTAIN AMERICA.

YOU--YOU'RE NOT REAL.

BEST I UNDERSTAND IT, THAT'S SOMEWHAT UP FOR GRABS AT THE MOMENT.

IT'S TIME PEOPLE SAW THE TRUTH.

THE ***TRUTH?!*** YOU WERE A ***LIE*** THEY USED TO MAKE EVERYONE ***FORGET.*** TO ***BREAK*** THEM. I'M TRYING TO FIX THIS--

ARE YOU? LOOK AROUND. CHAOS, DESTRUCTION-- YOU'RE NOT MAKING THIS A BETTER WORLD. YOU'RE ***ENDING*** IT.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?! YOU THINK ***YOU'RE*** THE ONE WHO'S WORTHY OF PROTECTING THIS COUNTRY--THESE PEOPLE?

YOU COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT YOUR OWN ***MOTHER.***

THAT SHIELD DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU.

TRY AND TAKE IT FROM ME, THEN

IT WAS MORE THAN JUST A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO MEN...

...IT WAS A WAR FOR THE HEART AND SOUL OF A PEOPLE.

IT WOULD DECIDE THE KIND OF FUTURE WE WOULD LIVE IN.

WHAT OUR DREAMS WOULD BE.

STEVE...

NO-- *HE* NEEDS TO FINISH THIS.

THEY WERE SO PERFECTLY MATCHED.

TWO WARRIORS FIGHTING WITH THE SAME MOTIONS...

...THE SAME UNBREAKABLE WILL.

IT FELT LIKE IT MIGHT NEVER END.

THE WORLD WATCHED.

OUR CHAMPION DID NOT FALTER.

HE WAS A MAN AT WAR WITH HIS WORST NIGHTMARE.

A WARPED AND TWISTED REFLECTION OF HIMSELF, AND ALL HE STOOD FOR.

AND HIS STRUGGLE INSPIRED US--

LEISTEN

--REMINDED US THAT THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE CHOICE WHEN CONFRONTED BY THIS KIND OF EVIL.

YOU DO NOT RUN.

YOU DO NOT HIDE.

YOU STAND--

--AND YOU FIGHT.

YOU STAND--

--AND FIGHT.

--AND YOU FIGHT.

STAND--

--AND FIGHT.

STAND--

--AND FIGHT.

UNTIL YOU CANNOT STAND ANY LONGER.

THIS IS HOW YOU ARE TESTED.

AND HOW YOUR ENEMY IS TESTED.

THEY HAD COME TO POWER ON THE BACK OF A LIE.

A LIE SOME OF THEM EVEN *BELIEVED*...

...THAT OTHERS *LET* THEM BELIEVE.

THEY HAD MADE US FEEL SMALL, WEAK, FEARFUL.

THEY HAD REVELED IN THEIR STRENGTH. THEIR POWER OVER US.

BUT LIKE HE HAD PROMISED--

WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE STRONGEST, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF HYDRA

--IT WAS TIME TO SEE THE TRUTH.

NO...

THEY HAD *NEVER* BEEN WORTHY.

HERE--

--LET ME TRY.

WHOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF

THOR

NEVER AGAIN.

TONY-- ALL OF YOU-- I'M SO SORRY. THIS WASN'T--

WE KNOW IT WASN'T. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, CAP.

I TOLD HIM THIS DIDN'T BELONG TO HIM. IT DOESN'T BELONG TO ME, EITHER.

AND NEITHER DOES THIS.

THE WAR HAD BEEN WON. HOPE HAD CARRIED THE DAY.

AND WHAT HAD ONCE SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE--

--WAS NOW THE MOMENT WE LIVED IN.

I'M SORRY I GOT IT WRONG. I KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW. THANK YOU.

KOBIK RESTORED THE HISTORY THAT HAD BEEN CORRUPTED AND TAKEN FROM US.

BUT SHE LEFT THE SCARS AND THE WRECKAGE.

--A REMINDER OF OUR PROMISE: NEVER AGAIN.

AND FOR SOME OF US-- THE ONES WHO STOOD FOR WHAT WAS TO COME, OUR *FUTURE*--SHE GAVE A GIFT...A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY...

...THROUGH THE *VANISHING POINT.*

AND WHEN WE RETURNED, WE WERE RESTORED. REBORN.

IN THE DAYS TO COME THERE WOULD BE MORE TESTS. MORE BATTLES.

BUT IN THIS MOMENT, WE WERE EVERYTHING WE HAD LOST. WE WERE, ONCE AGAIN...

...EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.

EPILOGUE.

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, A SURPRISING SENSE OF NORMALCY RETURNED.

SOME OF WHAT WE LOST, WE REBUILT--

--AND WHAT WE COULDN'T, WE MOURNED.

LIFE WOULD GO ON. BUT DEEP INSIDE OURSELVES, WE KNEW--

--NONE OF IT WOULD EVER QUITE BE THE SAME AGAIN.

...BRIAN McALLISTER? PLEASE SIGN--

WHAT IS THIS?

JUST A STANDARD FORM--INDEMNIFIES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR ANY HARM OR HARASSMENT YOU WERE THE VICTIM OF BACK AT CAMP NEW ATTILAN. YOU CAN HAVE A LAWYER LOOK AT IT, BUT THAT MEANS YOU'LL NEED TO GET IN ANOTHER LINE--

NO--GIVE ME THAT--

"--WHATEVER GETS ME OUT OF HERE FASTER."

BRIAN!!!

JASON-- JASON, IT'S OKAY, BUD. I'M HERE... I'M HERE...

COME ON, LITTLE MAN. LET'S GET YOU--

--HOME.

WE WOULD GO BACK TO OUR LIVES, OUR FAMILIES--

--BUT WE WOULD ALWAYS CARRY THE SCARS.

=SIGH= WHAT A MESS...

BRIAN...

YEAH?

IT'S GONNA BE OKAY NOW, *HUH?* I MEAN-- THE GOOD GUYS WON, RIGHT?

HH. YEAH--

--THE GOOD GUYS WON. 'NIGHT, PAL.

WE COULD RESTORE AND REBUILD, WE COULD MOURN AND HONOR--

--BUT THE GHOSTS WERE STILL WITH US. WHISPERING IN OUR EARS.

GUESS I BETTER START CLEANING THIS UP--

FIRST THING IN THE MOOO-- ZZZZ---

REMINDING US HOW FAR WE HAD FALLEN.

HOW THE DARKNESS HAD NEARLY CONSUMED US.

CLAK CLAK CLAK

BUT THAT WASN'T THE END OF OUR STORY.

THERE HE IS! MORNING, BRIAN--

SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE. HARRIS COULD ONLY GET THE LADDER 'TIL NOON.

MS. PETERS? WHAT--WHAT IS ALL THIS?

OH, JUST A LITTLE EXTRA CREDIT WORK FOR JASON'S CLASS...

...FOR THE ONES ACTUALLY DOING WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO--***MARCUS FESTERMAN!*** SLOW DOWN!

BUT JASON-- HE STOLE MY CAPTAIN AMERICA FIGURE!

YOU CAN ***SHARE*** IT! THESE KIDS--

THIS IS-- YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ALL THIS.

OH, YES WE DID, BRIAN.

YES WE DID.

BECAUSE IN THE END, WE FOUGHT BACK.

IN THE END, WE OVERCAME. WE LOST SO MUCH--

--BUT WE NEVER LOST HOPE.

THE END!

SECRET EMPIRE

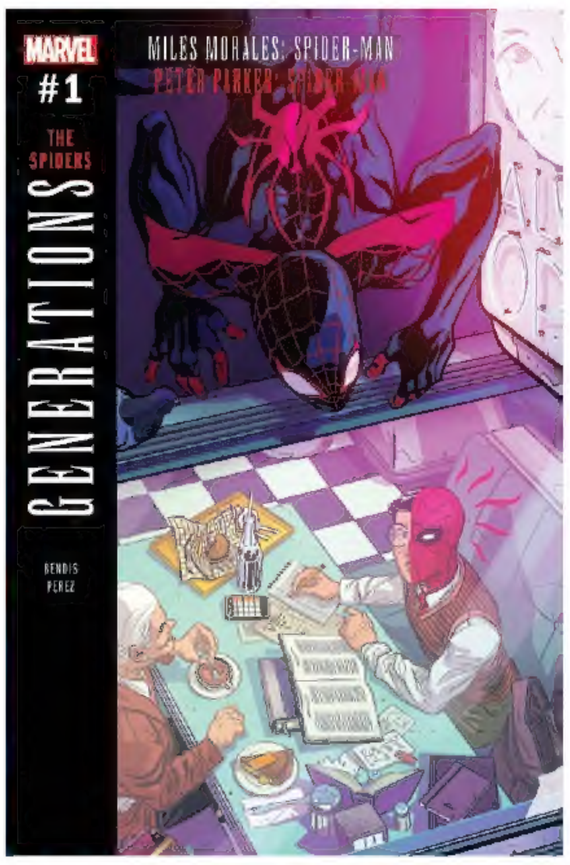
NEXT

THE SECRET EMPIRE HAS FALLEN, BUT ITS GHOSTS REMAIN. CAN STEVE ROGERS--
AND THE WORLD--FIND A WAY TO MOVE FORWARD?

GENERATIONS

THE VANISHING POINT

GENERATIONS: THE IRON #1

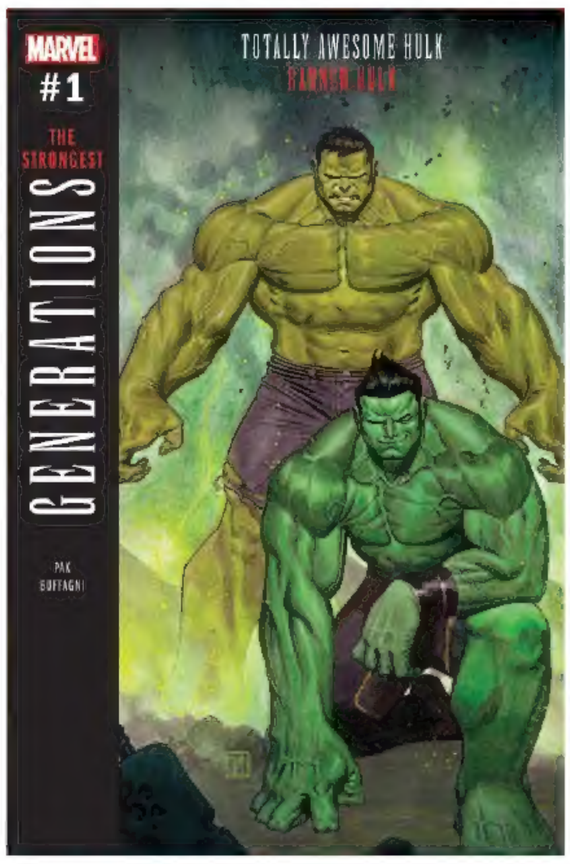


GENERATIONS: THE SPIDERS #1

GENERATIONS: THE MARVELS #1

GENERATIONS: THE THUNDER #1

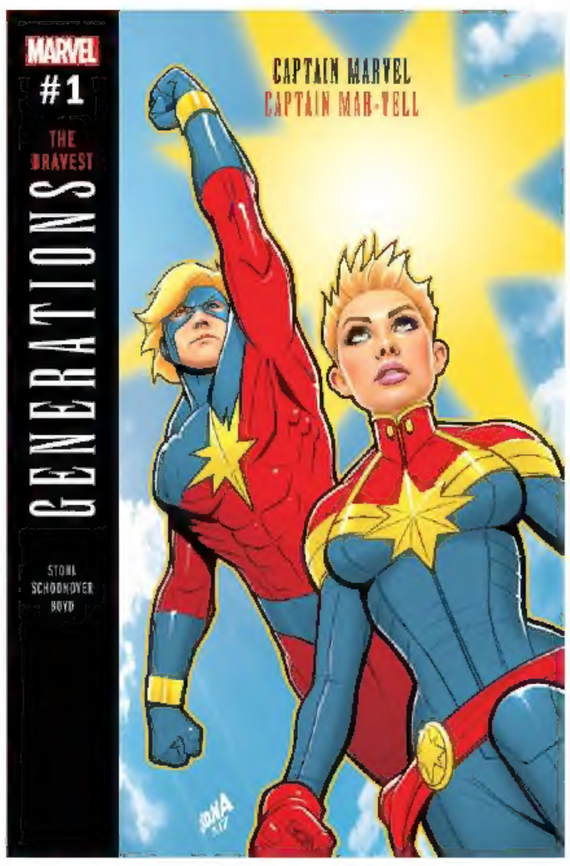
GENERATIONS: THE ARCHERS #1



GENERATIONS: THE STRONGEST #1

GENERATIONS: THE PHOENIX #1

GENERATIONS: THE BEST #1



GENERATIONS: THE BRAVEST #1

GENERATIONS: THE AMERICAS #1

THIS JOURNEY IS A GIFT...

ZONE